

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Evidences Pro-Castro Sentiments

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arcaya, a staunch defender of Castro, is evidently trying to muster the support of Latin American and neutralist nations for the Cuban regime. According to [REDACTED], Arcaya, in a conversation with the UAR and Bolivian ambassadors in Caracas on 12 July, referred to the recent pro-Castro statements of prominent Mexican congressmen and recommended that the "parliaments of neutral nations" take a similar stand. Arcaya and the Bolivian ambassador specifically mentioned Yugoslavia and India as countries which should be approached for such support. The UAR reportedly has sent a sympathetic telegram to the Castro government, possibly in response to Arcaya's proposal.

Arcaya informed the two ambassadors of his conversation earlier the same day with US Ambassador Sparks on the Cuban situation and added that in certain circumstances Venezuela would "not hesitate" to back Cuba against the United States in the Organization of American States or the UN General Assembly. He reportedly "did not hide his regret" over the postponement of the Havana underdeveloped nations' conference, a key "neutralist" scheme of the Cuban Government which has failed thus far to win Latin American cooperation. [REDACTED]

[Arcaya's position on relations with Castro has differed from that of President Betancourt, who has long recognized the problem Castro presents in the hemisphere and has agreed to take a leading role in resolving it after Dominican dictator Trujillo is ousted.] However, Arcaya and the leftist party he represents in the coalition cabinet have close ties with the Cuban regime and may be advising it informally of US efforts to win Venezuelan support in the controversy with Cuba. [In discussion with Sparks, Arcaya is frequently vehement in defense of the Cuban regime and parries proposals for facing the Cuban situation with recommendations of delay and impractical plans for future action.] [REDACTED]

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